

Message Text

SECRET

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SPC-01 PM-03 IO-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 DRC-01

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O 062230Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3062

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE NIACT

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 4758

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR HO ES NU

SUBJECT: GENERAL SOMOZA'S CONVERSATION WITH HONDURAN GENERAL
LOPEZ

1. GON GENERAL SOMOZA ADVISED ME TODAY THAT HE HAD TALKED AGAIN WITH GENERAL LOPEZ ADVISING HIM THAT PRESIDENT ARANA AND PRESIDENT MOLINA HAD ACCEPTED INVITATION TO MEET AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE HONDURAN/EL SALVADORIAN DISPUTE. SOMOZA SAID THAT WHILE LOPEZ REITERATED THAT HE WAS WILLING TO ATTEND SUCH A MEETING THAT HE WAS "EXTREMELY BUSY" THIS WEEKEND AND THAT HAJ (LOPEZ) WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ADVISE SOMOZA WHEN HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE UNTIL THE 11TH OR 12TH OF DECEMBER. SOMOZA EXPLAINED ONCE AGAIN TO GENERAL LOPEZ THAT HE (SOMOZA) WAS GOING TO MEXICO ON THE 13TH AND THAT HOPEFULLY SOME AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED BETWEEN MOLINA AND LOPEZ PRIOR TO ENDING OF DISCUSSIONS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY IN MEXICO ON DECEMBER 15. SOMOZA EMPHASIZED TO LOPEZ THAT HE HOPED HE WOULD NOT PLACE HIMSELF IN A POSITION OF APPEARING TO BE THE ONE WHO WAS BEING DIFFICULT ABOUT SUCH A MEETING NOW THAT

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MOLINA, ARANA AND HE WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY DATE OVER WEEKEND.

2. SOMOZA BELIEVES THAT FOR SOME REASON LOPEZ MAY WELL BE HEDGING AND STALLING FOR TIME UNTIL IT WOULD BE TOO LATE FOR A PERSONAL MEETING BETWEEN LOPEZ AND MOLINA TO SOLVE THE PRESENT IMPASSE. SOMOZA EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IF THERE WAS ANY SUBTLE WAY IN WHICH THE USG COULD BE HELPFUL IN CONVINCING LOPEZ OF THE USEFULNESS OF SUCH A MEETING THAT HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF WE WOULD DO SO.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA MIGHT HAVE WHICH WOULD THROW LIGHT ON THIS APPARENT RELUCTANCE OF LOPEZ TO MEET WITH MOLINA.
SHELTON

SECRET

NNN

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